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TAGS: [SENV](#) [KSCA](#) [CITES](#) [AORC](#) [UNEP](#)
SUBJECT: French Response to US CITES COP 15 PROPOSALS

REF: a) STATE 6668 B) STATE 10014

¶1. (SBU) SUMMARY: On February 4, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs told us that France agrees with the U.S. proposal on coral and shark, opposes the proposal on bobcat (because of look-alike concerns) and is still considering its position on polar bears. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (U) On February 4, Pascal Sliwanski, Deputy Director of the Natural Resources and Biodiversity Division, provided ESTH Counselor with an inter-ministerial response to ref A's demarche. France agrees with the U.S. proposal on listing the family Coralliidae in CITES Appendix II at CoP15 as necessary to prevent over exploitation.

¶3. (U) Sharks: France also shares the USG's concern. Listing sharks under CITES Appendix II is a common goal at CoP15 as regulating international trade will help prevent over exploitation. (Ref B's demarche on the Manila shark meeting was provided to Sliwanski and to the Environment, and the Agriculture and Fisheries Ministries.)

¶4. (U) Bobcat: France opposes deleting bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) from Appendix II because of possible harm to the protected look-alike species of Eurasian and Iberian Lynx.

¶5. (SBU) Polar Bears: France is still discussing the U.S. proposal with its scientists and policy makers.

RIVKIN